WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 9 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JANUARY 2001

"I don't care what diplomacy dictates. We have to stand up for our communities, to fight for them in new and different ways." Maxine Waters

Old Navy Docks in Olympia

Don Lane

In February 2001 a store will open on the Westside of Olympia. This store, OLD NAVY, will likely earn a nice profit for the shareholders. The major shareholders of Old Navy are the Fisher family. They are the founders and major shareholders of a clothing empire The Gap which includes Old Navy and Banana Republic. The Fisher family is worth 12.5 billion dollars.

How does one acquire such a fortune? If you are involved in clothing and retail, you produce your products in sweatshops. Old Navy is no exception to this rule. One of the many places where Old Navy garments are assembled is Saipan. Saipan has been in the news as a place where sweatshops have made handsome profits for corporations who have garments produced there. In fact, clothing made in Saipan can be labeled as Made in the USA as it is a U.S. Commonwealth. A further result of this status, there are no quotas on imports nor is there a import tariff. Not surprisingly, imports from Saipan are now estimated to be worth 1 billion dollars per year as companies such as Old Navy reach import quotas from other countries where wages and working conditions are even worse. . What the Made in USA label will not tell you are the conditions under which these garments are made. Last year Sweatshop Watch, the Asian Law Caucus, Global Exchange and UNITE filed three lawsuits against well known U.S. clothing companies in an effort to bring about reforms in the Saipan garment industry. Saipan is ripe for change as it represents all that is wrong with globalization. Mostly young women are recruited from Asian countries to sew garments at $3.05 per hour. According to the lawsuit these 13,000 workers regularly work 12 hours per day, seven days per week. They often work off the clock for which they are not paid. In the last five years contractors in Saipan have received more than 1,000 citations for violating U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration(OSHA) standards. These include violations which could cause death or serious health probelms such as blocked exits, fire hazards, unsanitary restrooms, and exposed electrical wiring. The heat in some factories is so extreme it can cause workers to faint. Many live in a room with up to seven other workers in barracks surrounded by barbed wire. Their movements are strictly supervised by guards and are subject to lock downs. Complaints about these conditions can result in termination, physical harm and summary deportation.

To date 17 companies have agreed to settle this lawsuit, they include names such as Calvin Klein, Liz Claiborne, and Tommy Hilfiger. They have agreed to pay a $8 million settlement and to adhere to a rigorous system of independent monitoring. The Gap has not settled and has shown no inclination to do so.

Old Navy or Old Growth

The Fisher family is not content with merely exploiting human labor, they also exploit nature in their hunger for more profits. They purchased 350 square miles of heavily logged forests in Mendocino and Sonoma counties in California. The Fishers have plans to log over 40 million board feet of timber per year in forests already over logged by the previous owner, Louisiana-Pacific. Independent forestry experts have estimated 20 million board feet would be sustainable.

The logging plans include clearcutting and use of toxic herbicides. They will cut the larger redwoods and Douglas firs capable of supporting the richest and most mature ecosystems. In an effort to put a good face on the logging operations, the Fishers have applied for a "green label" to suggest that it is managing these forests in a sustainable manner. However to qualify for the label, a secret process is used which is closed to the public. The evaluator is paid for by the logging company and the guidelines permit clearcuts and pesticide use. One must ask, what is the value of this label?

Learn More/Take Action

Once the local Old Navy opens, call the store manager and express your concerns about how their clothing is produced and concern about the logging taking place in Northern California. Look for information on a possible welcome to Olympia for Old Navy.

Contact the GAP at 1-800-333-7899 extension 75000. Ask for the GAP's Global Compliance Division and ask them to implement an independent monitoring system, in addition to their internal monitoring system and ask them to include a "living wage" in their Code of Conduct. Also demand that they settle the Saipan lawsuit.

Web sites with useful information include:

www.sweatshopwatch.org/marianas
www.gapsucks.org
www.globalexchange.org
www.tradewatch.org

◆

Rezone Approved with Tenant Rights Respected

Pat Tassoni

An important precedent was set in fighting the recent Rezone of Union Ave. On December 12, 2000, the City of Olympia okayed the proposed rezone on Union Ave between Franklin and Adams Streets but only if the owner, Bob Greenway, meets a number of demands. The demands were made possible through tenant agitation and they may make the whole prospect not worth pursuing. Greenway has not yet agreed to it, but he has five years "to use it or lose it."

Greenway wants to tear down 20 units of rental housing in downtown Olympia and replace it with a six-story office building, but the zoning doesn't allow that. He petitioned the City Council for a rezone that would allow him to do more than the current zoning. Without tenant agitation, what might have happened was the city may have just rubber-stamped the rezone and allowed the owner to build nothing but offices and kicked the tenants out with no more than a 20-day notice (while collecting and even raising their rents the whole time)! What was successfully done was to throw a big hurdle in the way of the owner's profit-motivated plans to destroy affordable housing.

Greenway has taken his cause to the state level now because state offices would lease his redeveloped office building. It is interesting to note that Washington State Republican Legislator, Gary Alexander, put in an appearance at the initial Olympia City Council meeting on this subject on October 17, 2000, but did not speak during the public testimony. Bob Greenway has made at least three contributions to Alexander's recent re-election bid totalling to $1000.00. Alexander does not represent Olympia in the legislature, but represents Lacey and the south County which is where Greenway owns a $200,000 waterfront house. Alexander may have some pull with where state offices are located and may be involved on behalf of Greenway in trying to pressure the Olympia City Council to modify their agreement with Greenway to loosen their demands on

(Continued page 9)

Workfirst Gets Report Card

by Frank Hoffman

December 4, the local Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC) presented the Regional Office of the State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) with an annual report card. WROC is composed mainly of single mothers receiving what used to be called Public Assistance and now is Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Most of the "needy" people who receive this temporary assistance are children. That is, most of the poor people in the United States are women and children. WorkFirst is the title of the state program that administers TANF -- the concept is that WorkFirst will provide the parents of the poor children training so they can get jobs and not be poor anymore. The law limits this government assistance to needy families to five years, and this lifetime 5 year limitation is apparently intended to motivate the parent.

WROC helps single Moms understand and exercise their rights under WorkFirst and encourages them to organize and act on their own behalf. Once a year local WROC groups poll TANF recipients to find out how they think WorkFirst is doing by them. At the same time, WROC identifies DSHS caseworkers who are really helpful and presents them certificates of appreciation.

The Report Card is a way of making public some of the failings of WorkFirst in the hope that the government will correct them. This hope for redress may go against the grain of the language of TANF and WorkFirst, which seems to direct attention to the imagined sloth of poor people and not to the existence and causes of poverty in Washington State and in the rest of the country.

The Report Card remarking on WorkFirst this year, for this region, echoes concerns from last year. This year and last, the survey showed that respondents with special needs stated that none of them were of-

(Continued page 8)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

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Mission Statement:

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Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Open letter to Juli Kelen

Dear Ms. Kelen,

I am writing in response to your piece in last month's WIP, which criticized my September- November KAOS article series. In your submission, you "corrected" my portrayal of four issues. When reading and reflecting on what you wrote, I learned a couple things that I'd like to share with the WIP readership as well as you.

Your condescending, occasionally mocking tone showed me the important piece I left out of my previous KAOS writing. Your writing was a great example of the sort of condescending attitude I saw during my research, shown by professional managers and those aligned with your approach, toward many of the volunteers. I did not know how to write about it in my articles. I wrote about structures and processes instead. But no matter how "open" your meetings are, or liberal your political climate, managers' attitudes can allow or block volunteers' participation in shaping the station.

I have come to think of condescension as a weapon used to push threatening people away and down. Condescension and mockery are silencers. When you punish people who confront you or threaten to undermine your agenda, it sends out a warning to everyone else: Mess with me, and I will humiliate you. I make fun of people too, but I try to save it for overblown leaders, the very wealthy, and, of course, Tim Eyman. Making fun of people brings them down a notch in our minds, which is a wonderful thing when the subject is an opponent buoyed by the power of politics and finance. That's why people love Micheal Moore. It's not exactly noble, but it's empowering to us little people. But when you mock people who are equal to or less powerful than you, all you do is momentarily heave yourself above them. It is an ugly, ego-feeding maneuver. For example, when people heard that Tim Eyman received a faceful of berry pie last spring, their eyes would usually light up even if they disagreed with the pie-throwers' political strategy. This guy's used his privilege to benefit himself financially, while causing a lot of suffering to low-income and disabled people in our area. It's kind of funny to think of him standing there with dessert dripping from his nose and chin, yelling that he'll sue due to corneal damage. But what if those masked tricksters had pied a political opponent on their own level of power- say, a young right-wing college campus activist (assuming there is such a thing)? Would it have been funny? What if they had a political argument with a homeless person, and then threw a pie in her face? How funny would that have been?

So the next time you hear that tone in your own voice, or see it in your writing, please think of who you are trying to move down a notch, and why. I wouldn't have objected to your submission if your teeth were less sharp and you sarcasm less thick.

Also, I would appreciate it if you'd help break the ugly cycle between KAOS management and Austin Kelly, rather than perpetuate it. He is not the monster you sketched in your written piece. And just because he has a strong bias does not mean the issues he raises are not legitimate. If there was less ego-bashing, I don't think the struggle would have be-

(Continued page 10)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Jan. 19th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Jan. 22nd
6:30pm at Olympia Timberland Library

Everyone Welcome!

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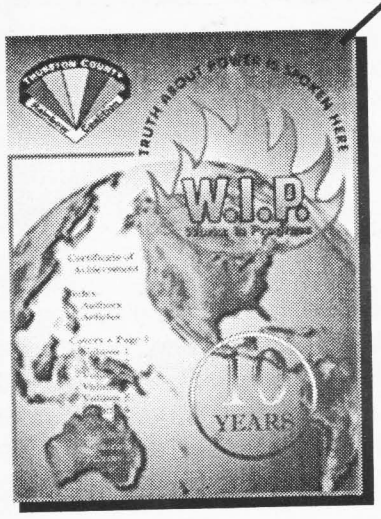

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JANUARY 2001

WTO's GATS Agenda

(General Agreement on Trade in Services)

March 2001 • Geneva

- **A set of international regulations which will require governments to open up public services to privatization and will remove all governmental controls over service delivery that are considered barriers to trade.**
- **160 government services, such as health and education provisions, have been identified as subject to GATS.**
- **Individual countries may not be able to protect these sectors. If they do, they will risk trade sanctions.**
- **According to David Hartridge, Director of the WTO Services Division, "Without the enormous pressure generated by the American financial services sector, particularly companies like American Express and Citicorp, there would have been no GATS."**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
'The WTO sees the service sector as an untapped resource, and their definition of services is very loose." Claire Joy, director of WDM	**1** **1863**: Emancipation Proclamation **2000**: WA St minimum wage rises to 6.50 **2000**: No major Y2K problems	**2** **1995**: Supreme Court okays TX execution of Jesse Jacobs; prosecutors say he's innocent **2000**: Last Peanuts strip is published	**3** **1910**: British miners strike for 8 hour day **1961**: US severs relations with Cuba **2000**: People line up for $30 car tabs	**4** **2000**: Israel agrees to pulling Israeli troops from 5% of West Bank **2000**: Judge upholds county seizure of Rainbow Valley	**5** **2000**: US decides to send Elian Gonzalez back to Cuba **2000**: NBC makes deal w/NAACP to hire more minorities	**6** **1997**: US Supreme Court rules that in sentencing, acts for which a defendant has been acquitted can be considered
7 **1795**: Georgia legislature sells 35 million acres in the Qazoo River territory to 4 land speculation companies for a nominal sum	**8** **1867**: Johnson's veto overridden; suffrage granted to blacks in DC **1916**: OH: Militia discipline Youngstown strikers; 3 killed	**9** **1912**: U S lands troops in Honduras to protect American investments **1995**: Barbara Durham sworn in; 1st female chief justice in WA St	**10** **2000**: AOL, Time Warner merge; 162 billion **2000**: 200 rally at Capitol; demand legislators put public transportation a priority	**11** **1836**: Calhoun calls abolition petitions "foul slander" of South **2000**: Court rules state employees cannot sue through federal courts	**12** **1819**: Congress fails to condemn Jackson's conduct in Seminole War **2000**: Supreme Court: unprovoked flight allows cops to stop people	**13** **2000**: WA state Supreme Court upholds state law requiring insurance companies to cover alternative medical services
14 **1878** Supreme Court: okays railroads unequal accommodations **2000**: St Dept of Ecology fines Allied Aquatics again	**15** **1929**: Martin Luther King, Jr. is born **1922**: The Irish Free State is established **1995**: 360 area code goes into effect	**16** **2000**: Yugoslavia: US soldier charged w/ murder of 11 year old **2000**: Pole shows McCain, Bradley leading in New Hampshire	**17** **2000**: 1988-1998: incomes for poorest rose 1%, richest rose 18% **2000**: SC: Protesters call for removal of Confederate flag	**18** **1943**: End of the siege of Leningrad **2000**: Microsoft tells judge he is wrong, that it is not an abusive monopoly	**19** **1760**: Cherokee fail to rescue those held hostage by Gov Lyttleton **2000**: Maria Cantwell announces her candidacy for US senate	**20** **2000**: Forest Practices Board vote to adopt new logging rules **2000**: Elian Gonzalez's grandmothers receive visas to travel to US
21 **1905**: 140,000 Russians march to czar's Winter Palace **1997**: House of Rep votes to reprimand and fine Newt Gingrich	**22** **1999**: Boeing settles 2 discrimination lawsuits; admits no wrong doing; pays $15 million **2000**: Elian's grandmothers meet w/ Reno	**23** **1968**: Navy intelligence ship USS Pueblo seized off N.Korea by N.Korean patrol boats **1964**: Poll tax is abolished	**24** **2000**: Gore, Bush win in Iowa Primary **2000**: Elian's grandmother arrive in Miami **2000**: Time Warner announces merger w/ EMI	**25** **2000**: Justice Dept orders Florida relatives to make Elian available to meet w/ grandmothers **2000**: Meta Heller will run for governor	**26** **1907**: US Congress passes an act forbidding corporations from contributing to election campaigns for national office	**27** **2000**: Claim of Elian's father revealed in court papers that Miami relatives offered millions, house and car for him to join son in US
28 **2000**: Dentists rally at Capitol to push for fluoridation **2000**: Amazon.com stock falls after it announces 150 layoffs	**29** **2000**: Olympia registers domestic partners **2000**: 1,000+ WTO protester defy protest ban in Switzerland at WTO meeting	**30** **1968**: N Vietnam launches Tet Offensive **1999**: Gov Locke announces he will veto a bill to ban same-sex marriages	**31** **1867**: US: Suffrage is granted to all males **2000**: Illinois gov announces moratorium on executions to investigate procedures	**When people tell me that I'm wrecking the two-party system, I ask them what's left to wreck?** **Ralph Nader**	**DECEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**FEBRUARY** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Olympia Protest — January 15, 1991

Like Goliath They'll Be Conquered

Ron Jacobs

What follows is a description of the streets of Olympia on January 15, 1991—one day before the bombing of Baghdad, which began the combat portion of the war against the people of Iraq. Although that time period saw some of the largest demonstrations in the history of Olympia, it was a shameful period for this country. Furthermore, the anniversary of that period is made even more shameful by the continuing sanctions against the Iraqi people by the United States and some of its allies. As most readers know, there is a growing movement to end those sanctions. This movement includes popular and diplomatic pressure on the United States and direct actions like those sponsored by various political, religious and veterans' groups that bring food, medicine and other supplies directly to the people of Iraq. To donate money and/or medicine to this campaign please contact:

Iraq Sanctions Challenge
2489 Mission St. #28
San Francisco, CA. 94110
415-821-6545
Fax: 415-821-5782
www.actionsf.org

The crowd on January 15th exceeded our expectations. Even the police expressed their surprise at the large numbers and enthusiasm. By the time the speakers had begun, there were more than 3000 people in the park and the streets surrounding it. Curtis P. and I ran interference-keeping folks off the stage and helping keep order among the scheduled speakers. Susan introduced the participants and Anna kept the show moving. The only conflict that arose on stage was when Democratic Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld approached us and asked to speak. Curtis and I were against such a move, not because we had anything in particular against her, but because we did not want politicians diluting our message or riding our coattails. Anna and some others felt just as strongly the other way. Eventually, Curtis and I gave in, knowing that the final speech would be given by Peter in front of the Capitol and there was no doubt about his stance. Within days Unsoeld was supporting the war under the guise of supporting the troops, like so many other politicians.

After the rally ended, a group of drummers organized by Mike O. went into the street and waited while people lined up behind them. Then the crowd headed up Capitol Way to the Capitol. The police did a little pushing and shoving, but for the most part they behaved themselves. After the majority of the crowd had reached the parking lot in front of the Capitol, Peter Bohmer began to speak. He gave a rousing twenty minute talk tying together the fight for justice and against imperial war and then urged everyone to join him inside the Capitol where we would attempt to present a petition demanding the Washington State Legislature pass a resolution opposing a war against Iraq. People headed towards the doors. As they went inside police asked them to leave their signs at the door. Once inside, the chant "No War!" began in earnest once again. While most of us remained in the rotunda, about 500 protestors went looking for a door into the chambers. Eventually they found one and streamed into the room. The Legislature had closed early that day because of the demonstration and the room was empty. Not for long, though. Soon, close to a thousand people were in the room, chanting, talking, and dancing. Some of the more organized members of the crowd began to strategize a plan for the longer term. They called the group to some kind of order and expressed their desire to occupy the chambers until the legislators responded to the proposed resolution. Meanwhile the police were gathering their forces and talking to each other on walkie-talkies. The press was sending out their version of the events on the national wire and over the television airwaves via CNN. Within the hour, news of the action had spread and more media were streaming in as protesters began to settle in for a long stay. By dark most folks had left the chambers. Some headed home. Most, however, joined a vigil and prayer session that had begun an hour earlier in the Capitol rotunda.

Around 9:00 pm, while the speeches and praying went on in the rotunda of the Washington State Capitol building in Olympia, a different type of action was playing out in the chambers- by now sealed off by state troopers and a variety of other law enforcement types-where a dozen or so protestors from the earlier celebration/takeover continued their occupation and protest against the impending attack against Iraq. Capitol grounds administrators and police talked back and forth about physically removing the people inside. Myself and one or two other organizers asked them to hold off. Meanwhile we waited for attorney John Thorne to return an earlier phone call. Although John was not licensed to practice in the state, he had plenty of experience dealing with police in all types of situations. His experience in California during the sixties and seventies representing everyone from a police union in San Jose to the revolutionary George Jackson insured that. On top of that, he had helped us deal with the police during other protests in Olympia against American policy, including showing up at a moment's notice after a confrontation following a 1989 protest against US policy in El Salvador and retrieving my friend David from jail. This would be child's play.

After finding the room where the police were planning their move, John began asking around for the officer in charge. At first, none of the police wanted to talk to him, but after he told them he was an attorney, a lieutenant eventually materialized. After brief introductions, John and the lieutenant left the hallway to discuss the protestors who were locked in the chambers. Meanwhile, I waited. So did the troopers. When John came back, he winked at me, shook the lieutenant's hand and we headed upstairs to the lobby and the continuing vigil.

"They're going to let them stay the night, Ron." Said John, referring to the demonstrators inside the chambers. "As long as they leave in the morning. Do you think they'll go for it?"

"Probably." I said. "If we can get some food in to them."

"Anyone working on that?" asked Thorne.

"Yeh. The co-op people put together some sandwiches and have them outside in a truck."

By this time, we had arrived at the locked doors of the chambers and began to knock rather loudly. The food co-op workers were already there with a box of sandwiches and drinks. After a minute or two, Ceridwen, one of the occupiers, opened the door a crack and peered out. We assured her that no police were around. She then opened the door wide enough for the box of food to be handed to her. After a quick word or two of assurance regarding their overnight stay, I went back to the vigil where a group of teenagers were harassing another teenager for wearing the US flag as a headband.

I woke January 16th, tossed back a couple espressos and headed to work. I didn't get home the night before until around midnight, after making sure that the police were not going to forcibly remove the folks occupying the legislative chambers and being assured that I would be called immediately should they go back on their word. While drinking the coffee, I heard on the news that most of the remaining occupiers had left voluntarily. The others were lifted out by police and released.

This would be the beginning of a week of rallies and direct actions that would result in the Federal Building in Olympia (which was on Capitol Way at the time) being shut down from Thursday afternoon until the following Tuesday. Crowds ranged from a few hundred to over a thousand at most of these actions and included Olympians of all ages and from all walks of life. Some, like those high school and middle school students who defied school authorities to join the protests as well as some city employees, risked more than others, but it was everyone who made the movement. The weeks that followed saw several more demonstrations in the streets of Olympia and around the world. Unfortunately, too many Iraqis died despite the efforts of those of us around the world who opposed this exercise in mass murder. We did not know it then, but this war would turn out to be the war which heralded the empire's New World Order. ◆

Some, like those high school and middle school students who defied school authorities to join the protests as well as some city employees, risked more than others, but it was everyone who made the movement.

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Up Front

The Supreme Coup

Jerome Johnson

Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of this year's presidential elections, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the law.

—Justice John Paul Stevens, in dissent

The American people have been cheated of their moment of truth by the US Supreme Court's nakedly political decision halting the hand count in Florida. The people of Florida have been deprived of their democratic rights. And the world has witnessed a dubious outcome in the leadership of the world's only superpower.

—Helen Thomas, December 2000

I was out shooting pool with Sundown last week. Of course, like the rest of an outraged black America, we talked about the election. . .

"Some democracy," he growled, chalking his stick. "Two million people vote, but only nine votes count. Goddamn Supremes."

But, didn't Dubya have the right to go to court, just like Gore?

"What right?" Sundown asked, lining up his breaking shot. "The right to stop an accurate vote count, which he fought all along? What was he afraid of—that an accurate count might declare Gore the winner? Man, it makes me sick. His brother and that Secretary of State, Harris, rigged the vote for Dubya and he STILL nearly lost. Why couldn't he wait until the recount was done, then deal with the Florida Supremes? After all he's a Republican, and they're always whining about states' rights and keeping the federal government outta state business. Fine. The Constitution says elections are state business. No reason for the US Court to even be involved at that level."

But time was running short.

"Oh, I'm SO sick of that," he said. "Everybody 'wanting it to be over.' Hell, I wanted it to be RIGHT—even if Dubya did end up winning. With a full recount, we would've known for sure.

"And, the worst part is this: Dubya never really had to go to the Supremes at all. The Florida legislature—dominated by Republicans—was already convening to name a slate of Republican electors to the Electoral College, and they would've voted for him. They did anyway—insurance, so to speak. But he panicked, man. He saw the recount going, and his 'lead' melting away." He shot and the 10 ball rolled into a pocket. "What's he going to do in a real crisis—panic and hope Daddy takes care of it?"

But the media says that George Sr. is doing his best to let his son be president.

"Oh, come on, man. Poppy hated to leave, but knew he couldn't get reelectred on his own. Notice how Dubya ain't saying 'I stand before you as my own man?' Even he can't pull off a whopper like that. I mean, I've heard of sports dads 'living through their kids', but this is the limit. And look at who's in the Cabinet—all those retreads from Poppy's administration, all those Cold Warriors. They don't know that it's a new day."

Their experience is supposed to soothe us.

"Oh, sure. Experience like that, we don't need." He swallowed beer, and chalked again.

But what about Colin Powell and Condoleeza Rice? They're experienced, and doesn't their nominations signal a commitment to diversity in the Bush Administration?

He snorted. "Experience? Hell, Clarence Thomas is 'experienced.' Let me set you straight, bro. It's not about the color of their skins, it's the content of their policy. Tokens don't make no smoke for me, and that's what I think they are. No truly progressive person—especially a black—would even consider being part of a Bush administration. No matter how he tries, Powell ain't no George Marshall. Rice is qualified to be ambassador to Russia, but that's all, man. She don't know how the military works, or much about any country except Russia. She's out of her depth, man. What does she know about the Middle East? or Africa, or Asia? What about Latin America—remember, our involvement in Colombia now is about what our involvement in Vietnam was around 1962, and it's escalating. That Plan Colombia thing. And besides, I want to know who the CIA director will be—I bet he'll be one of Poppy's Cold Warriors. Like Jesse Jackson said, Powell and Rice will make the photo-ops but I doubt they'll be making any policy. Your shot."

How can I 'get behind' someone who's trying to hurt me, man? Someone who believes in vigorously executing people in an obviously bigoted 'just us' system? Someone who opposes womens' rights, gay rights, and everyone's civil rights?

I'm hearing a lot of angry, hateful people on the talk shows—even C-SPAN—heaping abuse on Jesse. I'm worried.

"Jesse's job—civil rights—hasn't been this secure since the Emperor was in office. If I were Dubya, I'd make sure Jesse Jackson is the safest man in America. People will rise up if anything—even an 'accident'—happens to him."

What do you think of outgoing Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft, Dubya's nominee for Attorney General?

"God help us, especially women," Sundown said grimly. "If we liked J. Edgar Hoover. The man is rabidly anti-choice. He won't know what to do first—take away what's left of our civil rights or undermine Roe v. Wade so that it'll be easier to overturn by the 'strict constructionists'—like Thomas and Scalia—that Dubya will put on the Supreme Court. Hell, I read in the paper that O'Connor got physically ill early on election night when it looked like Gore had won. Betcha that's another reason the Supremes took the case when they did. Scalia wants to be chief justice, and both O'Connor and Rehnquist want to retire. Couldn't do it until Bush had the White House so their seats on the bench would be 'safe' for more conservatives. Remember, the Emperor Reagan appointed both Rehnquist and Scalia."

But now that he's going to be president, shouldn't we rally and get behind him, recocile the nation?

"Reconcile?" he asked. "Reality check, brother: Dubya lost the popular vote by 300,000 votes. Worse than Nixon's loss to JFK in '60. And he knows he would've lost a legit Florida vote—that's why the Supremes and the Florida legislature rescued him.

"How can I 'get behind' someone who's trying to hurt me, man? Someone who believes in vigorously executing people in an obviously bigoted 'just us' system? Someone who opposes womens' rights, gay rights, and everyone's civil rights? Someone who would do his best to rig an election, then steal it when that fails, who sends angry mobs to stop legal ballot recounts, and THEN has the nerve to tell the legitimate winner of the election to 'be a statesman' and concede? Someone who is going to unleash Tom DeLay and Orrin Hatch on us? Remember the impeachment, man. If they'd go after the world's most powerful, rich, straight white man like Bill Clinton, what chance do us folks have?"

Surely the Democrats will help us.

"Democrats? Don't be naive. They're too busy trying to save themselves and their jobs and their perks. Look at all of 'em who wanted Gore to concede right away. Look at how many of 'em are closet Republicans, like that John Breaux in Louisiana. Nothin' but a boll weevil Democrat, if you ask me. Couldn't wait to go see Dubya."

Isn't that bipartisanship, so things can get done?

"WHAT things? That's what we need to know," Sundown answered. "And 'bipartisanship' is just a Republican code word. It means, Do what we want—or else. It's easy for them to be 'bipatisan' because they control Congress. They're going to ram through their conservative agenda, make it law, and appoint federal judges who will make it stick."

But isn't the Senate tied 50-50?

"No. As president of the Senate, Cheney's their tie-breaker. They're smart, my man. Bank, one time, eleven ball to the side.

"You know, what scares me the most is that even Republicans know that Dubya ain't right. Got one at work, we were talking. Asked him to set me straight. Here's Dubya, talkin' about tax cuts, a strong military with that expensive Star Wars system that don't work, education and law enforcement. Plus 'protecting' Social Security. When I asked him how Dubya was going to pay for all that, do you know what my co-worker said? With a straight face?"

No, what?

"He said, Bush will raise taxes. And my co-worker voted for him anyway!" He shook his head, put his stick in its case, and handed over $5. "See you next week, brother. Save the money—you'll need it."

******

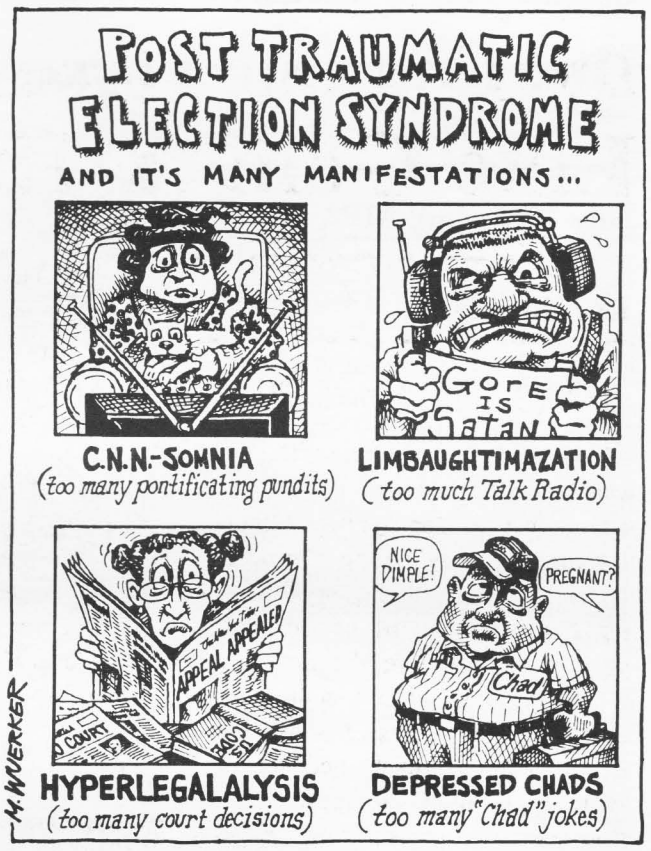
In Mozambique, Pres. Chissano meets with opposition leader Afonso Dhlaka in an effort to make peace—before violence in the north explodes into civil war.

In the Phllippines, Pres. Estrada fights a losing battle against impeachment.

In Washington DC, whispers abound that Slade Gorton may be the next Secretay of the Interior.

And in Olympia, in the lights of the season, people celebrate diverse holidays at the same time, in peace. ◆

LINT TRAP



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Dot Commie Versus Dot Com and Dot God

Amy Levinson, MPA

I am one of that new breed of writers, a web content provider. Foregoing my morals and values, whilst gritting my teeth, I write what I am hired to write. But, my various employers always get a little bit of a surprise when they get my finished product. Every piece, from a 250 word essay, to a medical research project has a bit of leftist leaning. Hey, I never said that I was an unbiased chronicler when they hired me, just a good one! Besides, the power of the Internet is in the ability to empower folks through more diverse viewpoints and dissemination of information. Yeah, right...Ladeda.

My witty lefty barbs got me in trouble in my last job. In fact, I got canned two weeks before Christmas. Now, as a good Jewish gal, this shouldn't have annoyed me, except for the constant barrage of Etoys wish lists in my inbox from my kiddies. Right now, my wish list includes things like food stamps, forget the Lego sets, little buddies.

I was hired by a hotshot up and coming dot.com news source, Streetmail.com, in May, 2000. I was to provide them with what they called a "product," but what is really a weekly online community newsletter. Entitled *South Sound Streetmail*, I would write weekly for subscribers in my oh-so-cool town, Olympia, WA, which was recently voted "hippest city in the U.S," by *Time Magazine*. Little did they know I was a dot commie. I figured that I could provide them with what they needed.

Streetmail hired me in spite of my politics. I figured what the heck, my topics and surveys would get loads of attention from all the cool types around here. You know, the black bloc of young anarchists, the vegan dreadlocked hippie kids, older community activists, the Wobblies, and the ubiquitously pierced progeny of liberal parents whose kids attend the Evergreen State College, the institution whose student body chose political prisoners Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal to be graduation speakers.

So, what does being a writer for Streetmail entail, you may ask. And who would get the damn thing that I write? Streetmail partners up with local Internet service providers in small towns and cities. They hire writers to write a weekly, highly formatted and structured newsletter, with lead stories that are under 300 words, complete with surveys. This gets sent out to all of the partnered local ISP's subscribers, a truly captive audience. In other words, if America Online partnered with Streetmail, every AOL subscriber would receive a weekly newsletter on their account, written by yours truly.

Not very smart capitalists, Streetmail inserts advertisements in every nook and cranny of the text that the hard-working journalist has sent to the big office in New York. When it gets regurgitated back to the local yokels weekly, it looks like a gigantic ad. One has to stare very hard, or wear those cheap magnifying glasses to actually read what the local correspondent has written. Smart money-makers would have more of a long-run vision and at least make some attempt to create a more aesthetically appealing product in lieu of bending over backwards and kissing ass to their advertisers.

With about 168 local correspondents nationwide, and two million or more captive subscribers, Streetmail purports to provide an oh-so-vital community news source, a favor, really, to all of us living in the backwaters of society. Maybe I am a cynic, but it seems as though these greedy marketers are really looking to suck up the bucks of those who aren't already in with the game. A story on Streetmail in *Business 2.0 Magazine* says that the smaller markets can offer big returns for those who break into them, "Although only 14 percent of U.S. Internet users live in rural areas or small towns, according to eMarketer, big-city markets are already saturated with every type of local Website and service. That's made regions from Littlefield, Texas, to Cape Cod, Mass., look very attractive to new online content businesses." Olympia is one of the bigger communities Streetmail slinked into, with over 200,000 people, three colleges and a state capitol to boot.

Streetmail was so proud when *People Magazine* carried a piece about them...blah blah, a snazzy example of the proper type of Internet marketing, linking up real people, with...drum roll please, real ads, and lots of them. The actual newsletter, or what little is left after the strict word limits are enforced and the ads inserted, can be read in a little under three minutes. Now, that's important stuff, I say!

Writers are supposed to consider themselves "hosts," says Barbara Johnson, CEO. Be personal, provocative, but welcoming and fair, states the writers guidelines. And keep it under 250 words per section, and snappy, for god's sake. In *Digital Mass*, an industry rag, CEO Johnson says, "We encourage writers to have their own voices...there's a certain unvarnished feel." Johnson stresses that Streetmail is "not a cookie-cutter product." Okey-Dokey, sure. When I dared write about local sweatshops, I was told that the topic was too dour and "not current" enough. A piece I did on dioxin in the local lake was "too long." So much for that, short items about parking and garbage services are the bread and butter topics of Streetmail.

Okey-Dokey, sure. When I dared write about local sweatshops, I was told that the topic was too dour and "not current" enough. A piece I did on dioxin in the local lake was "too long."

This extreme version of "the news" extends the general media trend of recent years towards shorter articles, so more room can be had for advertisements. De facto, this keeps non-mainstream voices out of the media, you cannot present alternative viewpoints that go against the conventional mainstream wisdom without concurrent explanation and documentation. This is a central point of Noam Chomsky's critique of the media. For example, look at the case of a journalist stating that Iraq is a terrorist country. That short sentence is accepted by the public in a wide-spread manner, no explanation required. But the public will think that a writer is a total quack if they say that the United States is a terrorist country, without citing the history of slavery, oppression and colonialist attitudes, or including an analysis and statistics of U.S. world power and control. Better yet if the writer talks about things like the exploitation of the world's resources by U.S. corporations causing further inequalities and misery worldwide, and cites current statistics, on top of that. I guess the one sentence statement is much easier.

Streetmail uses contingent labor, that bane of workers, to provide the writing. All writers are at-will contracted employees, the "no bennies, I can fire you at any time for no reason at all" variety of worker. Screw up and you're out on your literary fanny. If you write something that ends up being censored, or gets you fired, no legal remedy exists, since you are not a real employee. Besides which, for some obscure reason, Streetmail makes all of its prospective employees sign a "confidentiality contract," kinda like the CIA. You will never talk about us in any form, to anyone, at any time. What exactly does this "news source" have to hide?

Either way, I am a blabbermouth, muckraking type...so sue me for my 1987 Camry. Hey it still runs, kind of. Anyway, Streetmail shouldn't care about me, they booted me out on my proverbial butt on Election Day, me and Ralph Nader. Ya know, I was really, really trying to be "current." I covered the AFL-CIO protest of Labor Ready, the temporary worker agency that pays laborers minimum wage, disregarding prevailing wage standards. I wrote with earnest about the student and faculty protests over the arming of campus police at Evergreen. That did not get me in too much hot water, although you could hear the sighs of disapproval a modem away.

For the Election Day issue, I wrote a 278 word piece on Ralph Nader. The day before, there was a Greens for Gore rally in town, which got disrupted by the local Green Party (the real one) and a few anarchists. Geez, I was trying to be current, I really was! Plus, I carefully followed Streetmail own policy, which states that the writer must, "welcome the readers to the discussion, clearly and forthrightly express his or her viewpoints, then encourage the readers to express themselves the same way." Here is what I wrote, the piece that ruined my career, in all its marginalized (keep it under 300 words) glory.

> "THIS ELECTION BITES. I don't like Al Gore and don't want to vote for him. But, I'm under some heavy pressure. The Nader constituency is being asked to cast our consciences and votes aside in order to prevent a Bush oval office. People keep saying that if I vote for Nader, the Dark Ages will be ushered in, with a sure Bush win. My social security will be frittered away by yuppie dudes on Wall St., my abortion rights will be wronged, and corporations will rule the world. Thurston County Democratic Chairperson Walt Bowen sympathizes, saying, "I agree with many of Nader's positions and I can relate to what Nader says." But, Bowen warns, "If you vote for Nader, you won't get Nader, you will get LESS of what you want." Casey Kanzler, spokesperson for the South Sound Greens disagrees, saying, "A vote for Gore IS a vote for Bush-a vote for either of two candidates ushers in the same center-right structural policies. A vote for a deep and vigorous democracy isn't wasted, nor is it automatically for someone...other than that for which it was originally intended. Shouldn't we fight for a greater plurality...allowing more voices, ideas and values into the debate over the direction our public policies and program priorities should take?" I'm casting my vote for my ideals, via Nader, damn the torpedoes.
>
> **Is a vote for a third party a wasted vote? Take a Streetmail vote at <surveylink> , and check in for the results next week. For more information on Nader's platform, check out http://www.votenader.org . To check out Nader Trader, a vote trading scheme meant to allow Gore wins in toss-up states (ours) and push up Nader's percentages in other states, check out http://nadertrader.org ."

After the piece was okayed by the regional editor, (who in his issue told people to straight-out vote for Gore), the issue got sent out to my 3000 subscribers and posted on the Streetmail website. Many folks signed onto the survey, which by the way ran 10 to 1 in favor of third party voting as legitimate. Heck, I even got a nice letter from an Alan Keyes supporter telling me I was patriotic for asking the question. I better go and bury

(Continued next page)

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(Dot, continued)

my burned upside-down flag.

The very next day (the day before Election day) the company sent out an "apology" to all 3000 of my subscribers, and yanked the offending piece off the website. Umm hello, thanks for nothing, guys...Like I wouldn't mind being informed beforehand if I am doing something wrong. No word forthcoming from the company, I signed onto the internal Streetmail writers forum and noticed that another correspondent had seen the apology and was questioning the editorial ethics of it. Checking back a couple hours later, I noticed that the offending posting had been "removed," disappeared like a bad puppy slinking under the table, only later to be put back by the very same manager.

Still no answer to my phone calls, with a bad feeling in my gut, I checked out the forum again. On it, the managing editor was "discussing" my case with other correspondents. She said that I was not fair. My piece did not meet the editorial standard. Editorial standard? What, where, when? A mysterious policy I hadn't been informed of. You would think that the policy would have been made known to the folks who are supposed to follow it.

Oh well, the poop hadn't really hit the fan yet and my election party wasn't totally ruined. Besides, Nader got 6 percent of this county's vote, a cause for celebration. After three full weeks of waiting to hear that everything would be cool if I would just be a little less, umm, political, I finally received "the call." Funny, the liberals didn't get me in the end, the Christians did! I think, anyway.

I was informed that the local Internet service provider, Connect Corporation-whose subscribers all received Streetmail-had been just been bought out by a company with national aspirations, ReachOne. ReachOne, in case you don't know, is a code word for the Christian Right, as in reach one, convert one (after a long annoying proselytization process, no doubt, filled with reams of apocryphal easy-to-read magazines, etc). The new ISP is run by the local Helstrom Foundation, affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene. All the employees are on God's payroll, wages are paid out of tithes to the church. I wonder how big a tax break God gets anyway? More to the point, I was told that ReachOne was dropping Streetmail due to the fact that I covered "gay themes." Guess they didn't mind Nader but they sure hated my gay-friendly stance.

Fundamentalist groups like the Nazarenes are really concerned with "converting" ex-gays to be "normal" people. But what about the Golden Rule (about the only thing I know 'bout Christianity). Love one another...or did the Beatles say that? Toleration, etc. Oh well, these Christian geeks just don't seem to be able to get with the Jesus program. According to these dot-god folks, their ISP would be happy to filter out things like "anarchy and alt. lifestyles" off your Internet access, as well as other "undesirable content," all for no extra charge.

Gay themes I wrote about in the Nader issue included a listing of political endorsements from the right-wing Log Cabin Republicans and an event listing for an orthodox gay Christian group. You know, I thought I was being pretty fair and balanced by including these items, appealing to the conservative right! Guess I can't please everyone, or rather I didn't please anyone, except my readers, who sent me droves of positive email.

When informed that ReachOne had bought out the service provider and discontinued Streetmail, Olympia City Council Member Laura Ware had this to say, "I can't believe this! I have been a customer for as long as we have had our computer, because we wanted to patronize a local company. They will be hearing from me very quickly! And will probably be mentioned at the next Council meeting." Curt Pavola, another of Olympia's City Council Members says, "This is exactly why we need a local, countywide non-discrimination ordinance."

Now, I was informed, and it is stated, in the Streetmail writers guidelines that ISP's have "no control over editorial content." Streetmail, not following their own policy, let ReachOne dictate the whole nine bigoted yards to them. Streetmail's managing editor, Deirdre Terry, called me and informed me that they were trying very hard indeed to find another local ISP to carry my issue. This self-same person was the one who had written and sent out "the apology" for my writing without informing me beforehand. Yo, she is really on "my side." Hold up yuppie dot commers though, you cannot sell an Internet newsletter when you have an "apology" up at the website for the writer you are trying to sell. A fine example of the "product." Bad capitalist, no donut, or should I say: stock option.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, or should I say hovel, I am still somehow subscribed to the Streetmail internal writers list. They have taken to sending all writers more stringent guidelines, with tidbits of information like this: "In addition to the tired holiday topics we want to avoid, there are a couple other danger zones for Streetmail. The first is this presidential election mess. In the interest of freshness and staying local, let's just ignore the dang thing for the moment. Then, there's a longer term policy directive that has to do with not writing topics about your local ISP(s). Apparently this has the potential to wreak havoc in the ISP relations department." Lastly, the directive from above included the very scary notion of editorial dictatorship, saying "So don't be overly alarmed when I question everything you do." So much for allowing the journalist freedom to creatively control what they cover!

In different ways these two companies worked together with a final outcome of suppressing any kind of critical local online community news. ReachOne makes no bones about their bias, their world-view is one of the religious fundamentalist. Streetmail claims to be non-biased, but by keeping the topics non-controversial and short, the effect is the same; the outright censorship of news that doesn't support the status quo. The growth of Internet McNews makes strange bedfellows. Online news will continue to be delivered to our inboxes, but reader beware of behind-the scenes collaborations designed to crush journalists who refuse to parrot the mainstream discourse of our society. Needless to say, in my case I won't get the chance to cover anything, no local ISP signed up, I got relieved of my source of income in early December, 2000, and my kids wish lists sit unread in my inbox.

Amy Levinson worked for Streetmail for seven months until being fired in early December, 2000. She is a freelance writer in Olympia, Washington, a mother of three, has a graduate degree from Evergreen and is one of the usual suspects at protests and demonstrations. ◆

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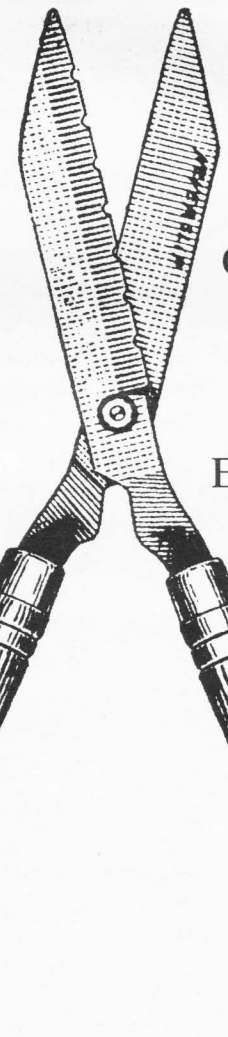

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Good News for Business: Exploitation of Disabled Still Legal

David Griffiths

We've heard the horror stories about Vietnamese and Indonesian women and children making Nikes for Phil Knight. We know about Pakistani children supplying the world with soccer balls. This is the side of sweatshops and slave labor we are all familiar with. But have you heard the stories about blind workers sorting fishing hooks for less than a dollar a day? What about developmentally disabled workers whose work stations are in an unventilated garage where delivery trucks sit with their engines idling? Have you heard about the system that makes scenarios like these not only possible, but legal, in your country, in your state, in your city?

That's right-sweatshops specifically created to exploit disabled workers-and they're 100% legal under U.S. law. Let's examine how this works. The owner of such a workshop, usually a non-profit "service" organization or agency, applies to the U.S. Department of Labor for a special certificate. This certificate allows the employer to pay their workers below the federal minimum wage. Each individual worker's wage is calculated based on that worker's "percentage of disability", applied to the prevailing wage in the region for the type of work being done. In English, this means that if a non-disabled worker earns $10 an hour, making 100 widgets, a disabled worker who only makes 43 widgets in an hour only gets paid $4.30 an hour, regardless of working conditions, the difficulty of the work, and federal and state minimum wage laws.

This exemption was written into the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1936. This is the same law that established the federal minimum wage, and made it illegal to pay most U.S. workers in the manner described above. Nevermind that this was the Roosevelt administration, and the country was being run from a wheelchair in the Oval Office. This is just further proof of the depth of FDR's denial of who and what he really was.

Returning to the present, we are faced with an interesting question. "What about the Americans with Disabilities Act?" The ADA has been described as the most comprehensive piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and is being studied as a model for similar laws by governments around the world. Doesn't the ADA guarantee freedom from discrimination, and equal rights in the workplace? Doesn't this mean that Disabled workers have to be paid the minimum wage? In short, not really.

There are several reasons for this. First and foremost is a clause tucked away in the very back, so to speak, in one of the final sections of the last title of the ADA, the one entitled "Miscellaneous". This clause reads, "Nothing in this act shall be construed in any manner that conflicts with existing federal legislation." This clause has been tested in litigation, and has been interpreted to mean that if you put the ADA up against any other federal law, the ADA will lose every time. In turn, this means that the elaborate system of exemptions, certificates and separate piece-rate pay scales for disabled workers is not considered a form of discrimination by the federal government.

Not only does the ADA not prohibit such exploitation, but the law contains provisions that grant tax credits to employers who make accommodations for disabled workers or customers. So now it's possible to hire a large number of workers who won't speak up for themselves or cause any problems, pay them obscenely low wages, write off a chunk of your taxes, and get big brownie points for hiring the disabled.

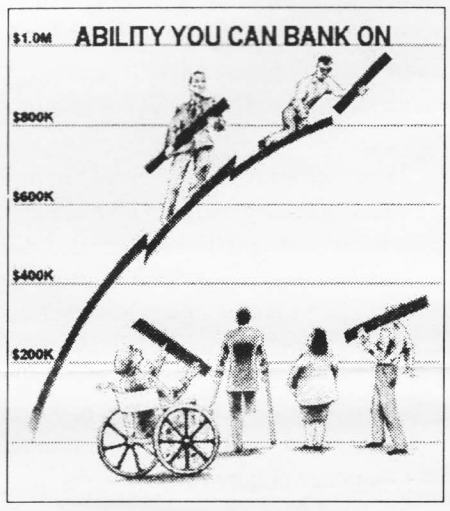
When asked why such exploitation is tolerated, self-proclaimed "advocates for the rights of the disabled" will cheerfully remind you that almost without exception "these people" all receive Social Security benefits. A person who receives SSI is only allowed to make $85 a month, before the government starts cutting back their payment. If someone earns too much, they might lose their Medicaid benefits. So, apparently, in the minds of "our" advocates, the key to the best possible quality of life is a combination of slave wage sweatshop labor and forced dependence on inadequately funded government agencies.

To understand more completely this system of forced poverty and economic exploitation, let's take a look at the main governmental entity that claims to be addressing "our" employment-related concerns-the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. PCEPD is made up of political and business leaders, and representatives of the "disability community", many of whom are not Disabled people. The current chair of the Committee, appointed by Bill Clinton, is Tony Coelho. For readers not familiar with Coelho's career, here are the highlights:

- In the early 80's, Coelho was elected to the House of Representatives. He had to resign before the end of his first term because of a financial scandal.
- He reappeared later as Ambassador to Portugal. He had to resign because of a financial scandal.
- His most recent appearance was as Al Gore's campaign manager. He had to resign early in the campaign because of a financial scandal.

Coelho's career in business is equally distinguished. He sits, along with the elder George Bush, on the board of a Texas-based mortuary corporation which, in recent years has been embroiled in several scandals, involving, among other things, the exploitation of undocumented Mexican workers. Coelho in fact sits on so many corporate boards that the Teamsters union has voted him "Most Ineffective Corporate Board Member". What makes Coelho an expert on disability? He has epilepsy.

Each year, the President's Committee publishes an "educational kit". The kit for 2000 is an appalling and truly disturbing piece of propaganda. It begins with a message from Chairman Coelho, in which he says, "People with disabilities are ready, willing and able to be an essential part of our nation's human resource capital." Speak for yourself, Tony! He also describes our contribution to society as "innovative thinking that translates into corporate profits that can be taken to the bank." The less than subtle underlying theme of this publication is reflected most clearly in this illustration which appears on the cover:



This, we are told, is a picture of progress. Through images like this one, and the pro corporate-state propaganda we are repeatedly given, Disabled people are constantly being told, in true Orwellian style, that freedom is slavery, and that we should be grateful to our oppressors for the opportunity to make them rich.

The problem is obviously quite complex, and there is no easy solution. There is, however, a simple first step that we can all take-learn more about these patterns of oppression and exploitation. Once the mechanisms of oppression are understood, methods of resistance will be made clear. To this end, the Disabled People's Liberation Front of Cascadia invites you to attend the 21st annual Disability Community Reception for Legislators. (It's not our event, but we'll be there!) **This event will be held in the Legislative Reception Room in the Legislative Building of the State Capitol, from 5-7 pm, 17 January**. All state legislators are invited, and many representatives of disability-related advocacy groups, service organizations and state agencies will be present. This will be the perfect opportunity to find out who's who among our oppressors, and to question a wide variety of advocates, bureaucrats and "advo-crats" about their positions on these issues.

In the longer term, contact the DPLF at dplf-c@tao.ca. And of course, look for more info from DPLF in future issues of WIP. Griffiths is field organizer for DPLF. ◆

(Workfirst, continued)

fered the help of an interpreter if they have difficulty reading, writing or speaking English; and none of them were referred to a social worker for help with a disabled or elderly family member. The Special Needs were ignored, according to the Report Card. Both years, the clear majority of people whose service from DSHS was curtailed or ended — they were sanctioned by the department for one reason or another — was not given adequate warning that services were going to be stopped nor were the rules of the sanction explained. And clearly, both years, the respondents said that the options given to them for removal of the sanction were not in consideration of their family's needs.

Last year, no people said their childcare provider was paid in a timely way. This year, all respondents said their provider was paid timely. (WorkFirst would collapse if childcare providers mutineed and stopped caring for the children of the parents doing job search or getting training.)

So some services got better, some stayed bad. Many people reported both years that they believe they are not treated either respectfully or professionally by DSHS staff in local offices. The DSHS Regional Administrator told the people presenting him with the report card that DSHS staff were going to receive customer service training next year and that staff would get better information about WorkFirst policy and rules. This would help them better serve the people.

Apparently the fact is some low income families are not receiving needed, basic services now, today, in Olympia, because DSHS is not responsive to them. Those families are not able to wait a year for food and services denied to them because a caseworker doesn't return phone calls.

The presentaton of the report card was originaly scheduled to be at the DSHS Regional Headquarters in Olympia. The Administrator, Billie Hartline asked that it be moved to the local office in Tumwater. The WROC mothers set up their poster sized replicas of the report card in the local office lobby, talking with mothers waiting there to see their caseworkers. Some of those mothers wanted to join the report card presentation. The local office administrator, Steve Brink, came out and said the meeting was going to be in the conference room. WROC asked that it be in the lobby, so the mothers there could join in. Brink said he would go back and ask: he came back out of the jungle of partitions and said they would wait for the WROC people in the conference room. WROC asked the receptionist to come in and tell people when their name was being called, so they wouldn't lose their appointment and the needed service. The receptionist said, No. In the conference room, when told this, Billie Hartline said the receptionist should have said, Yes. The administrators in their suits in their conference room. The poor people scattered in the lobby. WROC trying to bring the two groups together on something resembling a level playing field.

Works In Progress plans to continue reporting about the WorkFirst program through 2001. ◆

(Rezone, continued)

the rezone — in particular, to allow an all-office complex on the current site while constructing another residential building elsewhere. Those would go counter to the Olympia City Council's stated interest in a mixed-use building that is both commercial and residential.

The Olympia City Council set a precedent by restricting the rezone that moves the interests of tenants into the forefront of consideration in residential redevelopment. Hopefully they will stick to it.

The rezone "Development Agreement" is weighed down with restrictions that protect the current tenants.

Here are the important points won:

Retaliation-free Tenant Rights:
- 90-day Notification of Demolition
- Rent Control (5% per year max)
- Just Cause Eviction Protection

Tenant Relocation Benefits:
- Last month's rent is free
- Damage deposits returned
- $500 cash towards first month's rent in other place
- $200 cash for actual moving expenses

Housing Replacement:
- At least 20-units need to replace 20-units lost
- 25,000 square feet of living space in new building (not just offices)

Other Restrictions:
- 5-year Window to "Use or Lose"
- 70 feet Maximum Height
- Historical Building Set-Offs (neighboring apartments)
- Maximum TDM Variance - traffic/ parking considerations

The Thurston County Tenants Union is the only membership-based, non-profit organization fighting for the rights of tenants in the South Sound area. There is no government agency enforcing Tenant Rights — it's up to you — and if you don't know your rights, you can't do anything. There is power in knowing your rights and working with others to accomplish a common goal. With this precedent, tenants throughout Thurston County may want to organize to get such protections guaranteed them by law. For more information on this and other renter's rights, call (360) 943-3036.

The Disabled Come to Congress

Kathi Wolfe

Like many Americans, I'm frustrated by the partisanship and political posturing that have dominated this election season. But two recent events have made me want to celebrate.

James R. Langevin, a Democrat from Rhode Island, has become the first paraplegic to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. And the Capitol is being renovated so that Langevin will be able to get around the House in his wheelchair.

Why do I want to break out the champagne? Because, until recently, few disabled people have run for public office. And, though the Americans with Disabilities Act became law in 1990, Congress has been largely inaccessible to disabled lawmakers.

I'm excited that in recent years Langevin and others with disabilities (both Democrats and Republicans) have run for office. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are 54 million Americans with disabilities. I'm one of them. I'm legally blind. Too often we've remained invisible. Disabled candidates help put us on America's radar screen.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt knew he wouldn't be elected president if he revealed that he used a wheelchair. As Hugh Gregory Gallagher, author of "FDR's Splendid Deception" (Dodd, Mead, 1985), says, "An agreement was struck: The people would pretend that their leader was not crippled, and their leader would do all that he could not to let them see that he was."

Today, disabled people are no longer in hiding. We're going to work, raising families and voting. Thank God (and C-SPAN) candidates for office no longer hide their disabilities.

As Jim Dickson, vice president of the National Organization on Disability, says, "It's important that disabled people run for Congress and other public offices." But Dickson speaks for many people like me when he emphasizes, "It's a person's ability, not disability, that counts."

I'm also cheered by the renovations to the Capitol following Langevin's election.

It's hard for many people to imagine how demeaning it is for a disabled person to work in an inaccessible workplace. George A. Covington, a special assistant for disability policy in the Bush administration, remembers what Capitol Hill was like for disabled lawmakers in the 1980s and 1990s. He recalls, "I watched as some aging lawmakers, who could no longer walk, were carried in and out of inaccessible committee rooms. It was undignified."

James R. Langevin, a Democrat from Rhode Island, has become the first paraplegic to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. And the Capitol is being renovated so that Langevin will be able to get around in his wheelchair.

The New York Times reports that the restroom used by congressmen just off the House floor was not accessible to Langevin, nor were the telephones in the House cloakroom or on the House floor itself. But measures are hastily being taken to make these areas handicapped accessible. These changes will allow Langevin to do his job.

The U.S. Senate was made more accessible after Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., was elected in 1996. Cleland had to use the women's room for six months before the men's room in the Senate was made accessible. The U.S. Veterans Administration building became wheelchair accessible when Cleland was secretary of Veterans Affairs in the 1970s.

I applaud our society's increased openness to disabled candidates for public office. I'm thrilled that the House is finally becoming accessible to the disabled. It's about time.

Kathi Wolfe is a writer living in Falls Church, Va. She can be reached at pmproj@progressive.org. ◆

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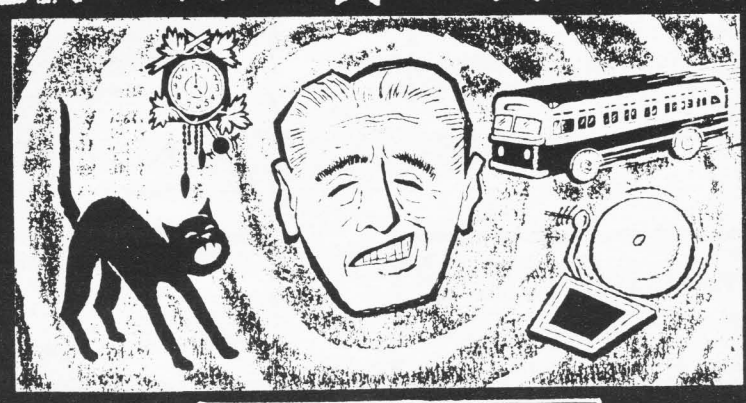

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Briefs, continued

come so polarized and hostile.

Sincerely, Megan Davis

P.S. In response to your "corrections":

1. "Quietly" does not mean "silently," or "secretly." The creation of a second mission statement was a quiet process because programmers were not invited to participate, and no effort was made to inform them of the process.
2. The programming committee is made up of four staff, three students. KAOS is missing a general manager for the moment, but that does not change the fact that generally, staff has the deciding vote.
3. The connection I pointed out between the Healthy Station Project (HSP) suggestions for changes at KAOS and KAOS management's station direction is factual, not "hallucinatory." Former general manager Micheal Huntsberger once referred to the suggestions as an unofficial "blueprint" for station direction. However, this connection does not preclude KAOS managers thinking for themselves.
4. I did not "indict" KAOS management for failing to hold an all-station meeting concerning the audit. I stated that there had not been one as of July 14, as one reason why many programmers were surprised when they heard that an audit was halfway completed. However, I would have worded this section more carefully if I'd been able to see it through your eyes.

Weekly Vigils

Wednesday Noon-hour Peace Vigil
Sylvester Park (corner of Legion & Capitol Way)

Join us in the middle of town in the middle of the week for a simple, friendly witness for peace and nonviolence! We have maintained this vigil for more that 20 years. We provide signs or you may bring your own. Info: (360) 491-9093. Sponsored by Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Friday Afternoon Vigil to Lift the Economic Sanctions Against Iraq
4:30pm - 5:30pm on W. 4th Ave
(near the fountain, south of Percival Landing)

Economic sanctions kill 5,000 Iraqi children every month and violate international law. Grassroots people can lift up this issue and pressure the U.S. government to stop this violent injustice! We provide signs or you may bring your own. Info: (360) 491-9093. Sponsored by Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Playback Theatre & Habitat for Humanity

Friday, January 26
7:30pm at Traditions
300 5th Ave SW
$5-$10 (suggested donation)

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them re-created with movement, music and dialogue. Through this collaboration with South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity, we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community. SPSHH is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian ministry working in partnership with economically disadvantaged families in need of decent, affordable housing to help create a better human habitat in which to live and work. It does this by building houses alongside families who are selected on the basis of need, willingness to volunteer 500 hours on the building of their home and the ability to re-pay a no-interest mortgage. The local affiliate has completed 20 homes since 1988. They are a local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Call (360) 956-3456 for more information.

Welfare Rights Organizing

Downtown Clinic: January 8, at Bread and Roses Community Kitchen, 114 Cherry St, from 2 - 4 pm. Vince Brown from Columbia Legal Services will be on hand to answer GAU and SSI questions. **Westside Clinic**: January 15, at Evergreen Vista Clubhouse, 1209 Fern St, 6 - 8. Dinner at 5:30, child care provided. Call 352-9716 for more info.

PFLAG's Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 15th at 2pm
United Methodist Church

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Right To Know Campaign

Did you Know?

- Much of the food on our supermarket shelves has been genetically engineered
- Europe has banned the sale of genetically engineered (GE) foods
- In the USA, no GE food products are labeled as such

You can do something about it!

Join the "Mothers and Fathers for Safe Foods" to organize the fight to have all GE food products labeled. Help plan a state initiative to require mandatory labeling of GE foods. Contact Michael at (360) 413-6961, <goldenspirit1@earthlink.net> or <www.safefood.org>.

Dance O' Dance

Music and Dancers needed for season 7 of Dance O' Dance. Episode #43 will be taped LIVE on Friday January 19th from 8-9 p.m. Future episodes will be taped LIVE on the 2nd Friday of each month. Taping occurs in TCTV's studio A at 440 Yauger way. Any age, any style dancers welcome to attend and partici-

2001 - Maybe A Year To Be On A Space Station

by Frank Hoffman

If you want to live in a world where the strong look after the weak, instead of destroying them; a world moving toward global justice and equality, instead of a world with immense divisions of wealth and power; if you want to be part of a society that prizes life and creation — 2001 may be a very frustrating year for you, and the quiet of a space station, far removed from the presidency of George W., might be a very appealing place. Floating there, listening to Strauss, letting the computer make the coffee.

Our society, throughout the 1900's, built these complex systems for killing people, from aircraft carriers to economic sanctions — or is it sanctions enforced by aircraft carriers? We seem indifferent to who is killed or maimed or starved. Our government tells us these systems exist to protect our way of life. They protect our ability to exploit the labor and resources of people without our technology so that we can buy things we don't really need. Because if we can't buy things, there eventually won't be any jobs, and since most of us get our food and shelter from our wage jobs, we would starve, the streets would be littered with our bodies.

An executioner as President. A general as Secretary of State. A bizarre election, overseen finally by the president's brother and ratified by the overseers of our whole system of law. This would not be labeled science fiction, it would be called paranoid fantasy. We have it as reality. This may be a time when those of us who can imagine a world of justice and delight and who do what we can toward those ends, maybe now we shudder at the prospect of even more repression and death, here, in the United States, as well as wherever those aircraft carriers sail. Our independence, creativity and joy may be more important than ever before, and we may be called upon to show even more intelligence and bravery and love than we have shown in the last couple of years. The cynics may say nothing has changed, only the name of the suit in charge of promoting global capitalism.

Maybe. And maybe we need to pay close attention to what unfolds as 2001 begins. We promote and cherish a future that often seems impossibly distant and unlikely. We act for that hope here in the present. Most of us are not utopianists who dream of an improved human being. The possibilities are among us all the time and those bright images of equality and fairness that we witness together help us to act for a reality many people are reluctant to admit to or embrace. And those possibilities exist alongside the difficuties we have with each other and the problems in the work we do together.

What we do is difficult and often our work is easily fragmented or dissipated, our comraderie fragile. Yet we are the ones having fun, everyone else is pretending. Let's not let George W. put us or our friends in jail or in despair, during 2001. May peace blossom among us.

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GLOBAL NEWS
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http://www.kaosradio.org

Briefs, continued

pate. Thanks in advance & thanks in a dance !!! more about the show? http://www.danceodance.com

John Bellamy Foster Date:

John Bellamy Foster, professor of Sociology at the University of Oregon at Eugene, author and frequent contributor to the *Monthly Review*, will be in Olympia on **Thursday 1 Feb 2001** for a presentation on "Environmental Protection in the Age of Corporate Globalization" at **noon at the Department of Ecology Auditorium in the Ecology HQs building in Lacey.**

His book *The Vulnerable Planet* has won respect as the best single-volume introduction to the global environmental crisis. This edition includes a new afterword by the author. In this clearly written and accessible book (*ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION*), John Bellamy Foster grounds his discussion of the global environmental crisis in the inherently destructive nature of our world economic system. Rejecting both individualistic solutions and policies that tinker at the margins, Foster calls for a fundamental reorganization of production on a social basis so as to make possible a sustainable and ecological economy. *MARX'S ECOLOGY : Materialism and Nature*, progress requires the conquest of nature. Or does it? This new account overturns conventional interpretations of Marx and in the process outlines a more rational approach to the current environmental crisis. Marx, it is often assumed, cared only about industrial growth and the development of economic forces. John Bellamy Foster examines Marx's neglected writings on capitalist agriculture and soil ecology, philosophical naturalism, and evolutionary theory. He shows that Marx, known as a powerful critic of capitalist society, was also deeply concerned with the changing human relationship to nature. *Marx's Ecology* covers many other thinkers, including Epicurus, Charles Darwin, Thomas Malthus, Ludwig Feuerbach, P. J. Proudhon, and William Paley. By reconstructing a materialist conception of nature and society, Marx's Ecology challenges the spiritualism prevalent in the modern Green movement, pointing toward a method that offers more lasting and sustainable solutions to the ecological crisis.

Can Labor Change the World

After years of retreat, we are learning that working people do have power on the job and in the streets. We saw it at Kaiser Aluminum, Boeing, Verizon Communications, and on the waterfront in Charleston, South Carolina.

We saw it in hundreds of workplaces and dozens of unions—from New York City public workers to meatpackers in Pasco, Washington and nurses in Worcester, Massachusetts. We saw this power magnified when grassroots forces allied for common goals as in Seattle.

The 2001 Labor Notes Conference, "Can Labor Change The World?," will bring together hundreds of grassroots labor and social justice activists to learn how we are building and using our power, from the workplace to the World Trade Organization.

Join us in Detroit, April 20-22, 2001
Place: Cobo Conference Center
Registration: $80 ($120 Canadian) includes Saturday Banquet. Early registration by Jan. 31-take $10 off. Some scholarships available.

Resist the Summit of the Americas and the FTAA

a CONSULTA on anti-capitalist actions against the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City (April 2001) and beyond ...

WHEN: January 27-28, 2001
WHERE: Quebec City
WHO: YOU! ... organizers and representatives of groups and collectives opposing the FTAA, the Summit of the Americas and capitalist globalization -- from Quebec, Ontario, the Maritimes, Canada, the Northeastern USA and elsewhere ...

HOSTS: The Summit of the Americas Welcoming Committee/Le Comité d'Accueil du Sommet des Amériques (CASA) -- Quebec City AND The Anti-Capitalist Convergence/La Convergence des luttes anti-capitalistes (CLAC) -- Montreal

April 20-22, 2001, Quebec City has the dubious honor of hosting the Summit of the Americas, which brings together the 34 heads of state of North, South and Central America, as well as the Caribbean (except Cuba). In the context of the largest police and security operation in Canadian history, the Summit aims to talk about security and terrorism, and utter empty rhetoric about democracy and human rights. One major goal of the Summit is to put the final touches on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) agreement.

In anticipation of the mobilizations against April's Summit, two anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian groups based in Quebec City and Montreal are proposing a face-to-face consulta (consultation). The consulta will take place in Quebec City on January 27 and 28, and we are inviting groups and individuals who are in basic agreement with the principles of the Summit of the Americas Welcoming Committee (CASA) and the Anti-Capitalist Convergence (CLAC) (attached below).

There are several components to the consulta:

· sharing basic information about the FTAA, the Summit of the Americas as well as the local situation in Quebec City;

· providing an "activist tour" of Quebec City for out-of-towners;

· discussing and debating action strategies (in Quebec City and elsewhere) against the Summit of the Americas next April 20-22;

· coordinating strategies;

· discussing how to strengthen anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian networks of resistance;

· getting to know each other and sharing our experiences of resistance and revolt.

CASA and CLAC are trying to ensure broad participation of anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian organizers, especially from marginalized communities. We will try to subsidize such participants as much as our budget will permit. We ask for your help in ensuring a representative turnout, either by sharing rides, or with donations if you can spare the cash. Also, please share info about the consulta with other radical, anti-capitalist networks that might not otherwise see this e-mail.

FOR MORE INFO:
<casa_clac_consulta@hotmail.com>

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NO WAR

Children Look To Us In 2001

by Frank Hoffman

We look at a child and something in us rejoices. And if we look away from a child, without rejoicing, maybe some important part of us has lost hope, lost interest in life and living.

War can cause this loss, whether your side was victorious or defeated. Poverty and disease can so reduce us.

In Jerusalem, children cower in their homes and their mothers and fathers fear for them. And for themselves. Violence is destroying childhood and children again, in Jerusalem.

Children, if they will let me try to speak for them here, do not understand or care about governments, or nations or religion. They want to be safe and loved. Cuddled, fed and warm. All children need this safety and warmth. Whether they live in a place called Palestine or Israel or Rosebud.

When we let violence loose among children, we are saying life has no meaning or importance. We broadcast indifference. We pull night and darkness down around everything and our children are afraid.

We can do something. We can say, Enough, to the men firing automatic weapons at each other on the children's streets. We can say, if you will be men and leaders and brave, then you must speak to each other without weapons - that is bravery. And if you can not do this, then step aside and let women try, let them show us their bravery. They bore the children.

And in this country we blame mothers for their children's poverty, while the men in charge mutter something about responsibility to the adoring media. In this country, we sponsor the violence to children in Jerusalem. Then some of us gasp as children pick up and throw stones.

In 2001, the children look to us for the understanding that will lead to peace and make it possible for them to be children again, playing joyfully in their streets. In Jerusalem and in the reservations and ghettos of this country, children throw back their heads and look up at us for help and caring. If we deny them, maybe we should just lie down and fold our hands over our chest and close our eyes.

Spring will come. Earth insists. As children of earth, we can insist that peace replace violence in the streets of Jerusalem. We can create a season of peace, in the name of the children.

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WORKS IN PROGRESS

JANUARY 2001

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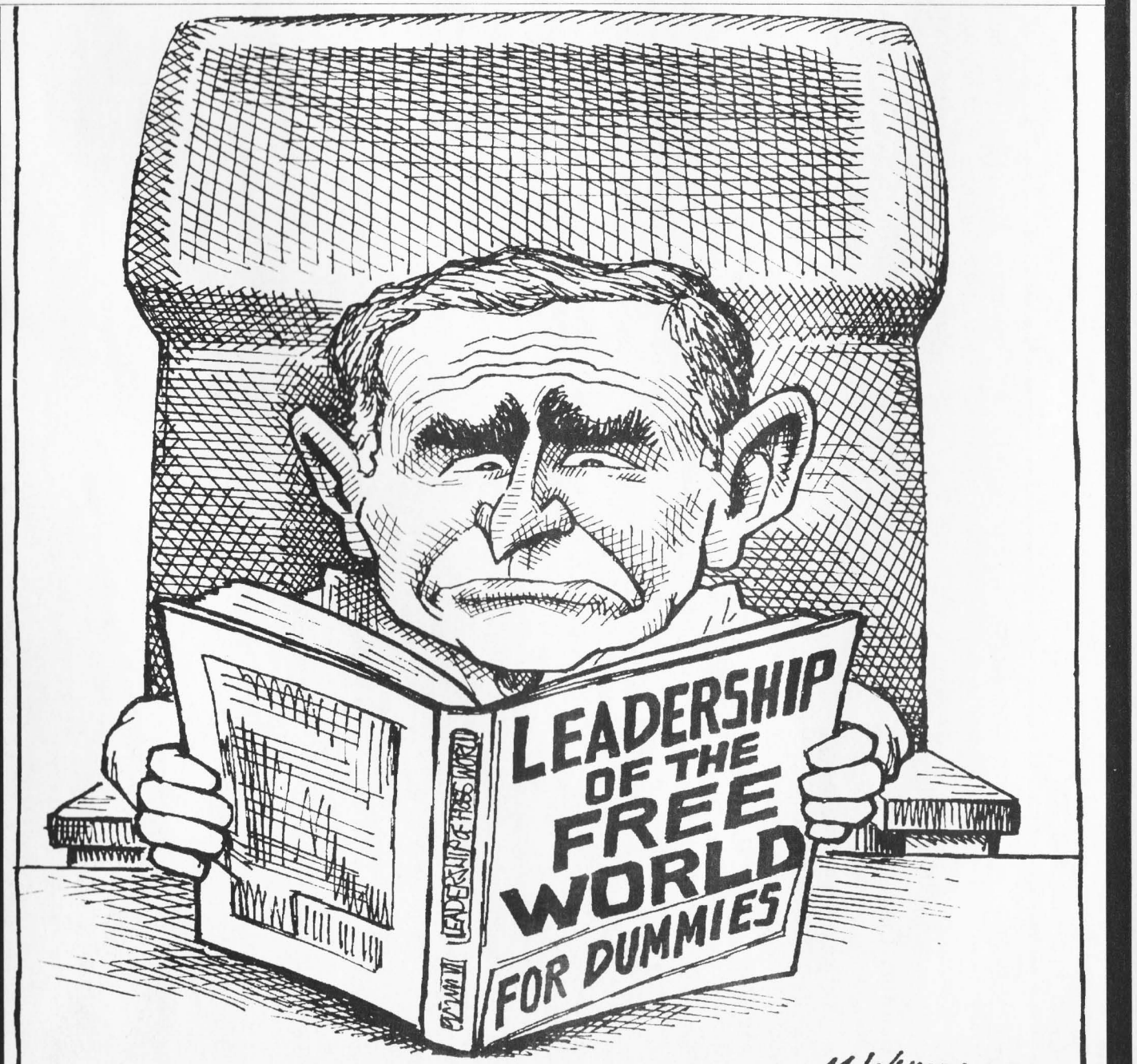

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+
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Exploitation of Disabled Still Legal

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Olympia 4th Annual
SEX WORKERS' ART SHOW
Other Sex Workers' Conferences Jan. 14th Call for info
An opening of visual and performance art created by people who work in the sex industry to dispel the myth that we are anything short of artists, innovators, and geniuses
Girls, boys, and trans people who are working or have worked in the sex industry (Prostitutes, phone sex, dancers, film stars, porn, etc.) visual and performance art extranvaganza!
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